

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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June 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the next few months, I plan on sharing with you some very informative articles concerning the sacraments. The first is split between this month and next month. I hope you enjoy these as much as I do.

Pastor Kingsley

Sacrament as radical religious rites

Eric Mount Jr. is Rodes Professor Emeritus of Religion, Centre College in Danville, KY

“A celebration is when we remember together who we are.”

“The opposite of remember is dismember.” These two posters or aphorisms from Sister Corita Kent’s Footnotes and Headlines: A Play-Pray Book (1967) have stuck with me all of these years. They should prompt any Christian to think about the importance of the sacraments. And since the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been engaged in an in-depth study of the sacraments, which has issued in recommendations about their celebration, it behooves us to pay attention to the remembering and dismembering that are at stake in the importance we place on the sacraments.

Emil Brunner could hardly have been more emphatic about their importance when he wrote: “Without the sacraments the Church would have disappeared long ago, and with the passing of the Church would have gone also Christian faith and the Bible.” At the table and the font we keep being reminded of our identity and “remembered” (to use one of Wendell Berry’s favorite words) as the body of Christ. The preacher may be lousy, the choir may sing off-key, the church schoolteachers may do a slap-dash job; but “as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,” we retain an awareness of who and whose we are. These sacramental celebrations are radical religious rites because radical means “going to the root or foundation of something” (Oxford American Dictionary) and they dig to the roots of community identity. Because they are radical in this sense and essential to our being continually “remembered,” they are conservative. However, they are also revolutionary in that they may be counter-cultural in the settings of their celebration.

Radically communitarian

Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are radically communitarian in a society that is radically individualistic. Joel Achenbach of the Washington Post wrote shortly after 9/11, “The disease of the modern world is disconnection - from nature, from kin, from community, from the rest of the world. For the moment we feel connected again” (“2001: An Inner Space Odyssey,” The Courier-Journal, Sunday, December 30, 2001, D4). It wasn’t long before a New Yorker cartoon depicted one subway passenger saying to another, “It’s hard, but slowly I’m getting back to hating everyone.” Princeton’s Michael Walzer has dubbed us “perhaps the most individualist society in human history” (On Toleration, 1997, 100).

In contrast, our sacraments necessitate community connection. You may feel close to God on your sailboat or on the golf course, but you can't receive sacraments there. You may get religious messages and enter religious chat rooms on television or the Internet, but you don't get baptized or commune. Sacraments are "get-togethers." Let us remember that the early Christians were suspected of incest because of their regular love feasts with their "brothers" and "sisters."

We get the bread and wine by having it handed to us. We need each other. We don't do private baptisms. In medieval Europe, infant baptisms were regularly performed in the presence of only midwives and godparents. Parents almost never attended. John Calvin, by contrast, insisted that parents present their children in services of public worship. In our Reformed tradition, not only do the parents take vows, the congregation does, too. It pledges support of the parents and the child. The little one is part of the church family, too.

Individualism is not all bad. It connects to some of those radical political rights we prize as Americans. But when it leads us to make our self-fulfillment the be-all and end-all of life, when it leads us to believe that we are totally self-possessed, our own persons, it is bad. Our church's Brief Statement of Faith, echoing the Heidelberg Catechism's first answer, begins, "In life and in death, we belong to God." To people proud of their autonomy and independence, it seems un-American to think of our connectedness, but the sacraments never fail to remind us.

Martin Luther pointed out that infant baptism underlines the character of all baptisms. We do not choose God's grace; it is a gift. In baptism, we rely on "alien righteousness," that of God in Christ, not ours. We acknowledge that a child has been born into the orbit of the Holy Spirit in the Christian community through no virtue of her or his own, that the child will be beholden to the faith of others and surrounded by the intercession of others. Thanks be to God that this baby doesn't start from scratch. He or she will not someday decide to be a member of the church, but rather to remain or not remain a member of the church. This baby will not be an utterly self-made man or woman, no matter how much initiative she or he shows and how much success she or he achieves.

This distinction is especially crucial in a world where increasingly relationships are reduced to advantageous connections for advancement and community is often reduced to a "commodity" as one pursues his or her self-chosen path to success. Baptism affirms that our most important connection is our membership in the household of faith, from which we get our primary identity. We had better believe it - that is, if we want to be Christians!



JUNE IS A TIME OF WRAPPING UP

Here we are leaving May behind and moving into June, a month of wrap-ups. School gets out, the Christian education season finishes, and plans to enjoy the summer are made. It's a time to move outside and enjoy the bounty of God's creation. Take some time to sit in the meditation garden or walk the labyrinth; it is a place of beauty and sacredness. You will be blessed.

Our chancel choir continues to bring music all summer. We may be outside during the week enjoying warm weather pursuits, but we're here on Sunday morning observing the rhythm of the week. We pause to reflect, sing, pray, and listen to God's word. That hour on Sunday morning is special, and it can send us into the week refreshed and energized.

Soak up the joy, breathe the fresh air, walk your worries away.

Robert Clooney



HUG HAPPENINGS

NEWS OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Recently, when I was in Mississippi, a huge billboard caught my attention. We were leaving the Meridian Naval Air Station, and in front of me was a picture of a big, stone, Gothic church stating, "First Presbyterian Church." Underneath that it said, "**WE ARE WORTH GETTING UP FOR.**" I immediately thought, "So are we!" For when we gather, we come together and share and then go out and share some more. This is what so many of our shawls do, too. They share God's love in the form of hugs.

Our group is getting quite a reputation for giving. People who have been recipients of our gifts sometimes come back and ask if we can give one to someone they care about or if they could have one for another family member. They tell us how our gifts helped them through the troubled times, and they want to help others, too. Of course, we never refuse. Some of our ladies have even taken shawls to their doctors, who distribute them to patients who need a boost.

Recently, I gave a lap robe to a lady that has a sister with Stage IV lung cancer. Susie was a recipient of one of our shawls about six months ago, but she is now back in chemotherapy. She is a mother of two and fifty-two years of age. I gave the robe to her sister and asked that she give it to her on Mother's Day. The sister hugged me and cried and said that our group will never know the enormity of how these gifts help so many people. She told me that her sister wears her shawl all the time and knows she will love the lap robe when she is reading in her recliner or having her treatments. I felt like I was the one blessed with the hug I received. Each of our ladies has a similar story to tell.

The stories are many. We have them tucked away in the corners of our hearts, and we are honored to be part of such a giving congregation. Your support in these past few years has made such a difference in so many lives. We have sent well over seven hundred gifts from our doors. This is a tremendous amount. Remember, many of the gifts are sent for happy times as well as for surgeries and illnesses. As the need continues and our hands hold out, we will just keep making them. Pray for our nimble fingers.

Our tubs seem full, but I am sure that is only temporary. We can ***always*** use more yarn, as the supply has dwindled down from all that we received from our yarn drive. Most of that supply is out in the world in the form of hugs for so many people.

We are still trying to find a time when we can all get together and meet. Suggestions are always welcome, too, if you can think of something that would enhance this ministry. Please remember us, and if we can help you or yours with a shawl at any time, all you have to do is ask.

Until next month, consider yourselves hugged.

Wendy Paffenroth
Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER CORNER

The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church. Please keep the following people in your prayers:



<i>Vince Ahrens</i>	<i>Dedra Altizer</i>	<i>Fran Backofen</i>
<i>Lori Baird</i>	<i>Dennis Baker and daughter</i>	<i>Emily Barry and Family</i>
<i>Mary Lee and Ted Berry</i>	<i>Gabriel Bittner</i>	<i>Lorraine Boardman</i>
<i>Karen, Michael, and Paige Brooks</i>	<i>Haley Buckley</i>	<i>Sarah Burrows</i>
<i>Winnie Bynum</i>	<i>Mary Carr</i>	<i>Grace Cook</i>
<i>Scott Cortor</i>	<i>Bruce and Jean Crandall</i>	<i>Wesley Cudrow</i>
<i>The Family of Phyllis Cummings</i>	<i>Shannon Decker</i>	<i>Mary Jane DeFreece</i>
<i>Bob Dennis</i>	<i>Amy Depew</i>	<i>Joe Destefano</i>
<i>Everyone serving in the Military</i>	<i>Evie and Family</i>	<i>Pat Farley</i>
<i>Ben Fisher</i>	<i>Norm and Sharon Frelinger</i>	<i>Gabby</i>
<i>Fran Genovese</i>	<i>The George Family</i>	<i>Barbara and George Hankins</i>
<i>Kevin and Sara Hankins</i>	<i>Tomas Healey</i>	<i>David Jacks</i>
<i>Our brothers and sisters in Japan</i>	<i>Robert Jensen</i>	<i>Martin Johnson and Joy Johnson</i>
<i>Carolyn Keller's parents</i>	<i>Laura and Tom Kennedy</i>	<i>Kim</i>
<i>Don and Ella Kimble</i>	<i>Roberta Kinnamon</i>	<i>Lyndsay Krutki</i>
<i>Grace and Jerry Lanuti</i>	<i>Grace, Frank and Fran Leva</i>	<i>Charles Li</i>
<i>Robert Lobb</i>	<i>B.A. Long</i>	<i>Margaretta Macica</i>
<i>The Family of Melissa Martucci</i>	<i>Andy Marussich</i>	<i>The Family of Anita McCarthy</i>
<i>Evelyn Mercado</i>	<i>Jeff Monroe</i>	<i>Heather Mustavs</i>
<i>Eileen Myslinski</i>	<i>Richard Nash</i>	<i>Steven Neil</i>
<i>Nina and Jason</i>	<i>Amy (Thompson) Nguyen</i>	<i>Oretsky Family</i>
<i>Ann Ott</i>	<i>Leon Paffenroth</i>	<i>Amy Pemberton</i>
<i>The Family of Marina Petersen</i>	<i>Jack Richner</i>	<i>Trudi Roach</i>
<i>Ted Sandstrom</i>	<i>Sandy</i>	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>
<i>Kevin Schuler</i>	<i>Fred Schwarz</i>	<i>Bryan Scott and Family</i>
<i>Dorothy Sevcik</i>	<i>Marguerite Shaw</i>	<i>Sara Simas</i>
<i>Walter and Louise Spencer</i>	<i>Peggy Srirach</i>	<i>The Smith Family</i>
<i>Kathy Stringer</i>	<i>Bill and Jean Strong</i>	<i>Shawn Thatcher</i>
<i>Judy Thompson</i>	<i>George Tietz</i>	<i>Brenda Travers</i>
<i>Caroline Urbanski</i>	<i>Kim Valentini and Family</i>	<i>Kenya VanZandt</i>
<i>Ashley Wade</i>	<i>Wendy-Bynum Wade</i>	<i>Jean Wade</i>
<i>Molly Wanat</i>	<i>The Weinberger Family</i>	<i>Jo Wolfe</i>
<i>Anne Wood</i>	<i>Orra and Dale Wood</i>	<i>Paul and Phyla Wright</i>

(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2011

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **341** and **our assessment per member** (not per family)

for 2011 is \$28.00, which is a total of **\$9,548.00** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment, if you haven't already done so, and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Thanks for doing your share.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JUNE UPDATE

The New Dogwood Tree Is In!

Heartfelt thanks go out to Al Sproul for giving his time, talent, and equipment to remove the old, dead maple tree. Allegro Landscaping hand-selected and planted a gorgeous, new dogwood to match the original dogwood. (They also spruced up the entire area with new mulch.) Try to spend a quiet moment in this wonderful, reflective place.

Memorial Pavers

The order has been placed for eight engraved memorial pavers, which should be installed in late June. If anyone is interested in purchasing a memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is \$100.

“Stewards of the Garden”

The garden is in full bloom and it’s looking great! Anyone who would like to pitch in and spend a few minutes cleaning up any garbage seen in the garden area is welcome to do so.

The June/Early-July Schedule For Our “Stewards”

Beryl Yungman & Sue Varden:	June 1 - June 15
Loretta & Jack Richner:	June 16 - June 30
Barbara & George Hankins:	July 1 - July 15

This schedule will be posted outside the church office.
If you are interested in becoming a “Steward of the Garden,” please see Pat in the church office.

Niches Are Available in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment, and the following four purchase options are available:

Payment in Full = \$2,500
12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)
24-Month Payment Option = \$130 / month for 24 months (\$3,120)
36-Month Payment Option = \$ 90 / month for 36 months (\$3,240)

A SERIOUS REQUEST

**FAR TOO MANY cigarette butts are being found in the garden area. Please make every effort possible to keep cigarette butts AWAY from the garden. If you see someone smoking near the garden...
TELL THEM, TOO! Thank you.**

Call the church office (845-294-7991), Pastor Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093) for any information you need about the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Benjamin Walsh</i>	13	<i>Maggie Calzaretta</i>
3	<i>Kate Laskoski</i>		<i>Charles Quick</i>
4	<i>Dave Paffenroth</i>	14	<i>Jean Stukey</i>
5	<i>Shannon Countryman</i>		<i>Rob Warner</i>
	<i>Allison Csernai</i>	16	<i>Mark Keller</i>
6	<i>Gary Laskoski</i>	17	<i>Heather Johnson</i>
	<i>David Totton</i>	18	<i>Susan Thirkield</i>
7	<i>Kevin Fenner</i>	19	<i>Glenn Bischof</i>
	<i>Jessica Spencer</i>	20	<i>Evan McDowell</i>
9	<i>Julia Paulus</i>	21	<i>Luke Garofalo-Wade</i>
10	<i>Robert Boardman</i>	22	<i>Anne Wood</i>
	<i>Deb Hourahan</i>	23	<i>Kaitlin Lippert</i>
		26	<i>Robert Pietropaolo</i>
		30	<i>Cecile Ayres</i>

HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:

2	<i>Tyler and Audra Cox</i>
	<i>Robert and Jennifer Fitzpatrick</i>
4	<i>Jeff and Donna Totton</i>
7	<i>David and Mary Kingsley</i>
9	<i>Dave and Laura Bryson</i>
12	<i>Craig and Sara Benson</i>
20	<i>Bob and Doris Weinberger</i>
25	<i>Ray and Sue Ruckdeschel</i>
26	<i>Don and Fran Hoffmann</i>
29	<i>Scott and Mary Roper</i>
30	<i>George and Barbara Hankins</i>

If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included, please give your dates to Pat in the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Cheryl and Sergio Maturana on the birth of their granddaughter, Juliette Darling.*
- *To our newest members who joined on May 15: Brian and Michele Meek and Debra Lystad.*
- *Emma Jorgensen on taking the title of "Goshen Idol" at the Goshen High School competition on May 7.*

CLASSIC CHORAL SOCIETY
Spring Concert

The Music of John Rutter

Wells Jubilate
The Sprig of Thyme
Canticles of America

Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church in Goshen

Open To The Public – No Tickets Required - Donations Appreciated
More info at 845-928-6462 or www.classicchoralsociety.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As the spring begins to fade, we turn our thoughts to winding down this year's Sunday school program. The culminating activity for the year will be the children's program on June 12. That is also the date that the current confirmation class will become members of the church. We extend our congratulations to them!

I would like to thank all the parents who have helped teach our Sunday school classes this year. A special thank-you goes to Susan Pierce who served as the Sunday school superintendent again this year. Susan will continue to help in this capacity next year as Linda Boardman moves into the role. In the fall, we will be embarking upon a new Sunday school curriculum called, "We Believe." The curriculum comes with teaching materials that are divided into three sections: fall, winter, and spring.

I thank both Jonathan Laskoski and Evan McDowell for reinstating a system of attendance for the Sunday school program. Part of their plan has been for students to bring items for the food pantry. As the year winds down, food is still needed. Parents, could you please remind your children to bring items with them to Sunday school between now and the last day of class? Thank you!

It has been a pleasure working with the Christian Education Committee this year. I thank all of them (Audra Cox, Amy Fontana, Bob Aglione, Beth Laskoski, Jeanette McDowell, Susan Pierce, John Bruno, Clifford Bartley, Linda Boardman, Jonathan Laskoski, Evan McDowell, Elizabeth Sproul, and Wesley Sproul) for their efforts this year!

Loretta Richner
Christian Education Committee Chairperson

Car Wash and Bake Sale

Come down to the church parking lot

Saturday, June 18 from 10:00 - 2:00

Clean Car

Tasty Treats



NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please save your paper towel rolls, twist caps and milk caps from 1/2 or gallon containers. These will be used for crafts at Vacation Bible School. You can leave them in the church office.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Just a reminder that the art raffle is still underway! If you would like to purchase a ticket, please see Pat in the church office. Remember that there are three prizes: 1) first prize - the original \$15,000 print of Harriman Fountain; 2) second prize - a framed and matted print of the painting; and 3) third prize - a framed print of the painting. The drawing will take place during the afternoon of July 3 at Great American Weekend.

Tyler Cox has stepped forward to assume the chairmanship of the sale of French fries under the food tent during Great American Weekend. Many hands are needed to help make this event a success, so please let Tyler know what you can do to help. The proceeds from the fries (both regular and sweet potato) will go into the general fund for the operation of the church. We are adding onion rings to our booth this year, so there will be two fryers going at the same time. Thank you, Tyler, for volunteering to take charge of the fries!

Coffee, tea, bagels, and rolls will also be sold early on Saturday and Sunday mornings during Great American Weekend. The proceeds from this will be added to the account for the preservation of our Tiffany windows. Help is also needed to make the coffee and to sell it and the bagels and rolls on July 2 and 3. Please let me know if you can help!

Wendy and Dave Paffenroth are working the rides for us during Great American Weekend this year. The rides will be open on Friday evening (July 1) and all day Saturday and Sunday. Thank you, Wendy and Dave, for stepping forward to handle this part of Great American Weekend for us! The profit from the rides will also go into the general fund.

Loretta Richner
Fundraising Chair

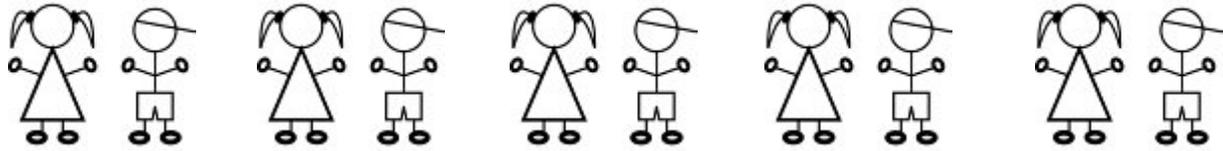
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GAW FOOD CONCESSION

Please sign up for this important church fundraiser where we'll be selling French fries and onion rings to the hungry masses at Great American Weekend. We need people to serve, cashier, cook, and otherwise help on July 2 and July 3. You can sign up directly at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/goshen1> where you'll be able to see directly which slots are already covered and which ones still need to be covered. If you have any questions, you can e-mail Tyler Cox at: tylercox1969@gmail.com

DEACONS' PICNIC

It's that time of year again. Spring is in the air and summer is right around the corner. The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and the Deacons are getting ready for their annual picnic on the lawn. The picnic will be held on June 12 during coffee hour. There will be lots of yummy burgers, hot dogs, and regular picnic fare, as well as games and activities for the children. So, come one, come all, and bring the family and your lawn chairs for what always proves to be one of the most well-attended and fun afternoons at First Presbyterian Church! You are also welcome to bring a dish to add to the festivities. We DO have the best cooks in Orange County after all! See you there!



END OF THE YEAR PROGRAM!!

The Sunday school children will be sharing with the congregation what they've learned this school year. Please join us at the service on June 12 for some singing and some fun as we share our talents with you.

P.S. for parents—practice will be after church on June 5 and at 8:30 a.m. on June 12



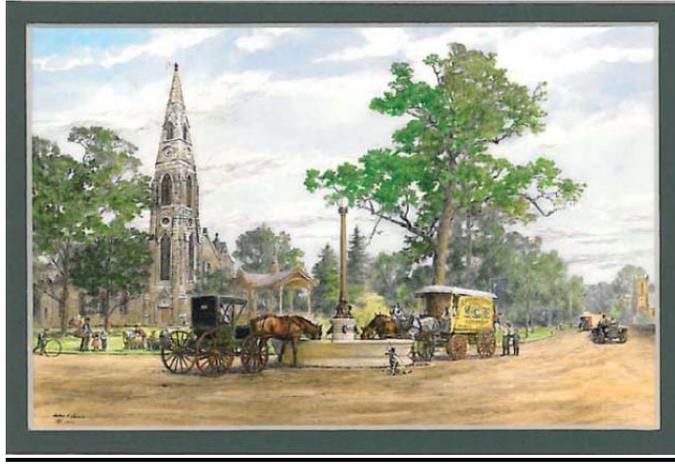
We are looking for volunteers to help us with our Sunday school for the 2011–2012 school year. Educating the children is the backbone of our church's responsibilities and the future of our church. We will provide everything you need—namely, the curriculum, the lesson plans, and any materials that you need. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED!** I promise that you will find the experience joyful and satisfying. Spending time with our Sunday school students is inspirational.

Susan Pierce (615-1410)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**Geraldine Garrison
Potomac Homes
38 North Central Ave.
Ramsey, New Jersey 07446**

Geri would love to receive cards and visitors.



The Harriman Fountain

The Good Old Days in Goshen, New York

Anyone who has ever lived in Goshen, or even just visited, will be nostalgic about the perspective of life in Goshen at the beginning of the twentieth century. Back then, the First Presbyterian Church, with its surrounding park, was the focal point and defining structure of the Goshen “villagescape.” Now, First Presbyterian Church in Goshen, in conjunction with The Bethlehem Art Gallery, will be giving you a chance to take home the original painting by renowned artist John Gould. What a wonderful slice of Goshen for your home, not to mention a great investment. Close your eyes and think of your time in Goshen. Whether you’re a third-generation resident or a visitor, the image you’ll see in your mind will be very similar to the one above, with perhaps a lot more traffic in the Village Square! Don’t miss out on your chance to own your piece of Goshen history. Fill out the order form below and return to:

First Presbyterian Church
33 Park Place
Goshen, New York 10924

If you have any questions, call the church office at 845-294-7991

Gould’s View of Goshen Raffle Tickets * * * \$100 each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____

EMAIL _____

Total tickets _____

Total enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to “First Presbyterian Church in Goshen” and write “Gould raffle tickets” in the memo area.)

Tickets may be purchased during coffee hour or at the church office during the week.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2012

Wendy Bynum-Wade
Craig Calzaretta
Tyler Cox
Bill Keller
Tom McDowell
Sue Varden

Class of 2013

Cliff Bartley
Barbara Hankins
John Redman
Loretta Richner
Scott Roper
Rob Warner

Class of 2014

Linda Clark
Dom Fontana
Pat Green
Bill Hodges
Karen Magee
Grover vonPentz

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2012

Linda Boardman
Jessica Bowe
Carol Gabella
Glynnis Jorgensen
Carolyn Keller
Marni Lewis
Rebecca Zis

Class of 2013

Lori Baird
Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Kari Taylor
Moses Ukejianya
Ashley Wade
Anne Wood

Class of 2014

Diana Bowe
Brendan Donohue
Lori Kilmer
Brian Meek
Jude Monteleone
Richard Paulus
Cheryl Zis

Moderator of Deacons: Lori Baird
Presbyterian Women:

STAFF

Robert Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Kim Hoernig, Church Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary